

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **January 25, 2005, Work Session**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 6

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:

(Confidential)

ACTION:

INFORMATION: **X**

ITEM TITLE: **Briefing on Healthy Neighborhoods Program**

RECOMMENDATION: Support the conceptual plan for further activities under the Healthy Neighborhoods Program.

SUMMARY: The attachment will support a briefing on staff's latest thinking regarding future activities under the Healthy Neighborhoods Program, an outgrowth of the Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Rather than being reactive to community events, such as an increase in gang related violence, the focus of the Healthy Neighborhoods Program will be to build the capacity for sustainable neighborhoods. The challenge is to make significant progress without an infusion of new resources. Nevertheless, we believe that the concept represented in the attached information can serve to guide future efforts regardless of their magnitude and to better coordinate existing staff resources.

PRIOR ACTION(S): Safe Neighborhoods Initiative started in reaction to increased gang related violence during the summer of 2002.

FISCAL IMPACT: None, although future activities will be enhanced or constrained by resources.

CONTACT(S): Kimball Payne

ATTACHMENT(S): Healthy Neighborhoods Summary and Minutes of Meeting of November 17, 2004

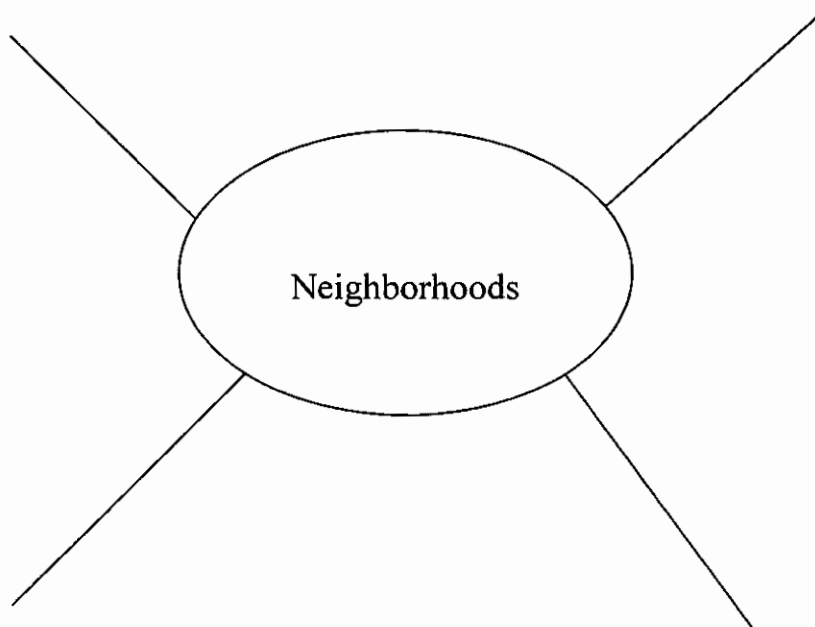
REVIEWED BY: lkp

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2004

Volunteer / Business

Faith-Based



City

- *Mentors

- *Neighborhood Resource Team

- *Steering Committee

Non-Profits

- *United Way

- *LynCAG

- *LNDF

How does the City the organize itself to partner effectively with the neighborhoods and achieve the goal of supporting the five Neighborhood Associations in Ward II?

PROPOSED STRUCTURE

MENTORS:

Select and develop five community advocates who can serve as mentors, each assigned to a specific neighborhood in Ward II. City staff with leadership skills and /or potential would fulfill this mentor role as a part of their existing job responsibilities. The mentors would meet and develop their role and expectations. At a minimum, the mentors will do the following:

- Connect with the Neighborhood Associations
- Pull the neighborhoods together
- Build coalitions among the neighborhoods
- Involve all ages / generations

NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE TEAM (NRT):

Form a matrix team with City staff responsible for neighborhood-based service delivery. The team will define role & responsibilities to ensure coordination of City services in the neighborhoods.

STEERING COMMITTEE:

The Directors of Human Services, Community Planning and Development, Public Works, Fire, Police, Parks & Recreation and the City Manager will serve as the Steering Committee and provide oversight for Healthy Neighborhoods.

COORDINATOR:

Designate a point person in City government to provide a coordinating role for Healthy Neighborhoods. Ideally, the individual would be familiar with the neighborhoods and community organizing. The Coordinator would be the liaison between Mentors, NRT, and Steering Committee. May also serve as leader of NRT.

CHANGES TO EXISTING STRUCTURE NEEDED:

- Neighborhood Watch Groups – expand purpose to Neighborhood Associations (501-C3).
- CDBG funding - explore use of this funding for neighborhood incentives.
- Community Centers – explore role and utilization of Centers to achieve goal of Healthy Neighborhoods.

NEXT STEP: Communication

- Prepare summary of structural concept
- Meet with Leadership Team
- Present concept to Mayor/Vice Mayor
- Communicate with full Council

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS SUMMARY

Mission Statement

"The City Government will partner with an inspired community to develop and sustain healthy neighborhoods"

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Definition of Healthy Neighborhoods

Elements: Five Aspects of Quality of Life based on community change research from the Center on Poverty and Social Change in Cleveland, Ohio.

- I. Neighborhood Identity and Pride
 Citizen Ownership
- II. Safety and Security
- III. Institutions and Services
 Partnerships, Education, Communication
- IV. Family & Youth Development
- V. Economic Opportunity

Group reached consensus that the above elements of Healthy Neighborhoods will serve as the basis for the development of goals, objectives, and strategies for citywide Healthy Neighborhood Initiative.

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Goal: To provide support to existing 501 C3's (associations) in five neighborhoods in Ward II to advance the mission and goals of Healthy Neighborhoods.

Strategies:

- Conduct joint meetings with City and Associations to define goals and criteria for citywide neighborhood initiatives.
- Expand the role of the Associations beyond Neighborhood Watch.
- Assist with the development of leadership within the Associations.
- Create an interdepartmental team to work on an ongoing basis with the Associations, improve coordination of city services and focus on specific neighborhoods as needed (representatives from Human Services, Police, Community Planning, Parks & Rec., Fire and Public Works).

A secondary goal of piloting the use of a neighborhood Resource Team in a particular neighborhood may be achieved as an outgrowth of the primary goal.